



Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

Well, it looks like autumn has really arrived. I'm so grateful for the cooler weather, as I'm sure you are as well. Autumn brings many of the things we most enjoy – high school and college football, and the tailgating that goes with them, gorgeous color in the landscape (yes, even in south Louisiana we do get some fall color), and a healthy hustle and bustle that comes on when we can move a little faster in the cooler temperature.

As ever, this issue is chock full of news and notes about all that you are doing around the state. It's so gratifying to read about your activities and experiences.

We often laud OJJ heroes for saving lives, and we report another such event. But this time, the heroes are Jetson youth, who literally saved their JJS when he lost consciousness. Read about the incident beginning on page 12.

This month, we have a new feature, health notes, provided by our **Health Services Administrator Kelly Smith**, on page 22. I hope we will get some important tips about health and safety from these messages.

I hope you enjoy *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ*, and keep up the great work.

“Doc” *Dr. Mary L. Livers*

The Daily Motivator

Keep your standards high

Hold yourself to a high standard. To raise the quality of your reality, raise your expectations. Refuse to listen to your own excuses. Demand integrity, commitment and persistence from yourself in all your undertakings.

Keep yourself lovingly and gratefully focused on whatever is truly important to you. Let go of any urge to be cynical, and allow your most meaningful dreams to flourish within your awareness.

Get in the habit of finding and expanding what's best, in yourself, in others, and in each situation. Learn to see the value in moments large and small, and act to make positive use of that value.

Resist the temptation to shortchange yourself or others, or to settle for anything less than your very best. This is your unique and precious life, so give it all the respect and effort it is due.

Fill each day with richness and excellence, competence and solid, honest commitment. Keep your standards high, and seek to live such that you'll never have any regrets.

- Ralph Marston



Rosario Beach, Fidalgo Island, Washington

CQIS POLICY UPDATES

Approved:

- A.1.16 Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice 9/15/11
- A.2.1 Employee Manual 9/23/11
- A.2.9 Senior Executive Services 9/14/11
- A.2.20 Critical Incident Stress Management 9/20/11
- A.2.31 Employees' Appearance Before Parole & Pardon Boards 9/6/11
- A.2.39 Solicitation by Vendors Relative to Payroll Deductions 9/20/11
- A.2.48 Driver Safety Program 9/20/11
- A.3.2 Travel 9/7/11
- A.3.4 Parental Contributions – Cost of Care and Treatment 9/21/11
- A.3.10 LaCarte Purchasing Card 9/15/11
- A.3.13 Office of Telecommunications Management (OTM) Land Lines 9/20/11
- B.2.12 FAST TRACK 9/20/11
- B.2.16 Secure Care Sex Offender Admission and Assessment 9/26/11
- C.1.7 Crime Victims Registration and Notification 9/7/11

Rescinded:

- DYS 4.5 Accounting Collections 9/21/11

Comprehensive Mental Health Training Presented at Central Office

By Nancy Gautreau, LCSW, BACS, ACSW, Program Manager

Comprehensive Mental Health Training was conducted for Office of Juvenile Justice staff October 6 and 7. **Dr. Gene Griffin**, along with **Dr. Stephen Phillippi** conducted the training, which was developed by the McArthur Foundation, "Mental Health/Juvenile Justice-Action Network-A Prospect of Models for Change-Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice."

Dr. Griffin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. Dr. Phillippi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences at the LSU

Health Sciences Center-School of Public Health.

OJJ participants included **Fran Martin, Director of Staff Development, Annette Arthur, Director of Treatment**, Community-Based Services program managers, program specialists, regional Probation and Parole training coordinators, secure care facility deputy directors, treatment directors, social workers, social services staff, secure care facility training coordinators, the OJJ Family Liaison and the OJJ Health Services Administrator.

The training was approved for 10.5 clinical hours of continuing education credit by the National Association of Social Workers Louisiana Chapter. The Mental Health Training Curriculum included "The Interface between the Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Systems," "Understanding Adolescent Development," "Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma-Related Disorders," "Treatment of Youth with Mental Health Disorders," along with "Family Engagement."

The training was conducted using a "Train the Trainers" model and will be taught system-wide by OJJ staff. OJJ staff were excited to have the Mental Health Training and pleased to have the opportunity to share the training information with their colleagues.

Anonymous OJJ Poet Pens Uplifting Verse

How does OJJ keep up the pace?
How do we stay in this crazy race?
What keeps us going full force each day?
We know it's not the raises, we know it's not the pay...

It's the dedication of so many,
Who continue to give plenty...
Of everything they have to help our cause,
To take care of our youth, staff never pause...

They work hard all day and night,
They work hard for OJJ because it's right...
To help the kids we have in our care,
The kids have been thrown and tossed everywhere...

Because we believe in what we do,
Because OJJ is me and you...
We give it our all each and every day...
We put all of our differences away...

We are a strong agency leading the way,
Of all the best agencies in our LA
We keep going and going and we don't stop...
We work this OJJ thing until we drop...

North, South, East, West,
OJJ is just the BEST!
We give our kids the best of care,
We teach them to give and care...

OJJ Staff is the best in the state,
All who knows us thinks we're great!
From morning to night we give it our all,
We care for our kids; no time to stall!

We teach our kids the Golden Rule,
We teach them the value of school...
We model the way for our youth to see,
That honesty and courage will always be,
Two things that will get them far in life...
Two things that will help with the stress of life...

We give them values and morals to live by,
We make them want to really try...
To be the best youth they could ever be,
The results are great, we always see...

OJJ will never fail,
OJJ will always prevail...
OJJ is the best any day of the year...each and every day we are always in gear!!!

Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulations

Administrative Coordinator Theresa Molliere was **Employee of the Month** for September. She is a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux.

PPO Jaime Hebert was **Employee of the Month** for October. She is a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux.



Congratulations to **PPO Eddie Fannin**, on the birth of his daughter, **Lilyanna Belle Fannin**. Pictured are Lilyanna Belle and her big brother **Logan**, and a portrait of Baby Lilyanna Belle.



PPO Allison Lirette and her daughter, Alaina are pictured having fun at Bayou Boeuf Elementary's 4-H Nite at Raising Canes in Thibodaux.

Students Go Whitewater Rafting in North Carolina

Eight students from AMikids Donaldsonville earned their way to the AMikids 2011 Whitewater Rafting and Rappelling event held in Highland and Almond, North Carolina in September. The event was filled with rushing water and mountaintops 6000 feet above sea level.



***Dedrick** was afraid of rappelling but conquered his fear and rappelled off the mountain.*

"To see the kids rappel down a mountain and raft the Nantahala River was very amazing," said

Malvin Jones, Certified Math and Social Studies Teacher. "They set up tents, camped, and cooked outdoors. They all looked at the mountain and said "no way am I rappelling down that mountain"... the next thing you know – there they are, conquering those fears and experiencing everything around them!"



"Trips like this one really help kids in a big way. They learn more about team work and how you need one another to accomplish a task in the mountains. Our kids are allowed the opportunity to have successes that they

never dreamed possible and do things that they never expected they could do," said **Joshua Riley**, Case Manager and Whitewater Rafting Guide.

Tallulah Regional Office

Tallulah OJJ recently celebrated with cake and ice cream for all the staff with September birthdays. As always, everyone enjoyed a sweet treat and lot of laughs.

PPO Fred Laing spent a week on the firearms range at the P&P Training Academy, assisting as a POST firearms instructor.

Training Events

Tallulah OJJ completed the required 8 hour classroom firearms training under the leadership of **PPO Truett Glass**.

All PPOs completed and updated their required SAVRY training.

PPO Truett Glass recently attended the Mental Health Training Curriculum for Juvenile Justice Training for Trainers. The training was approved 10.5 hours of continuing education credit.

PPO Robert Johnson attended the Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response training at the LA State Police Academy.

Officers and staff recently contributed to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in honor of **PPO Glass' son, Justin**.

Tallulah OJJ welcomed a visit by **DAS Sean Hamilton, Bridge City Director Joseph Powe** and **Deputy Director Namon Reid**. They visited with officers and staff to thank us for our help at BCCY.



Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Swanson Center for Youth

Condolences

Beth Betz, JJS1, acting SSC3, recently lost her mother **Jeannette "Jo" Betz**, two days after her 77th birthday and 57th wedding anniversary. Our heartfelt condolences to Beth and her family.

Welcome

Swanson Center for Youth welcomed two new Deputy Directors.



Germaine Simon is the new **Deputy Director of Operations**. Germaine is a native of New Iberia, and graduated from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette where he earned his Bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He began his career in corrections serving as a shift supervisor at the Lafayette Community Correctional Center. Germaine then served as a program coordinator at the Lafayette Juvenile Detention Center. After graduating from ULM-L, he accepted a commission in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant. Germaine served for seven years in the active duty Army, progressing to the rank of captain, before transition to the Army Reserves. While attending the New School University in New York, he earned a Masters of Science in the Urban Policy and Management program. He then went to work for Community Education Centers in Newark, New Jersey, where he served as the operations supervisor, working with offenders transitioning back into the community.

Nadira Ricks is our new **Deputy Director of Treatment**. Nadira was born and raised in Washington, D.C. She is a graduate of Georgetown University



with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. She was a member of Georgetown Women's NCAA Sixteen Team in 1993. She has worked in social services with at-risk youth of all ages for 17 years. Her motivation and passion is to change and save lives. Her motto is "It's best to be a part of the solutions; not complain about the problems."

Shreveport Regional Office

Congratulations

The **Employees of the Month** are... **Everyone who worked at Bridge City!** Everyone really stepped up to the plate and did their part to help our agency. Thanks for everything you do every day.

A celebration was held for the staff who volunteered to work at Bridge City. **RM Kristi Martin** brought pizza and cake and everyone had a great time!

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers go out to **PS Jan Crain** and her family. Her husband, Steve Crain, passed away on September 27 after battling a lengthy illness. Heartfelt condolences to Jan and her family.

Community Activities

PPOs Sandra Ersoff, Terri Harber, Charles Herrmann and **Jessica Flores** attended the Young Marines graduation in September.

RM Kristi Martin and **PPS Kim Carlisle** attended a Sabine Parish Children and Youth Planning Board Meeting to discuss the implementation of CSoc in Region 8A.

PPO Fabrecia Roberson and **PPO Brandy Stratton** attended suicide prevention training in Baton Rouge.

Youth Girl Power

PPO LaTonya Marshall was involved in hosting a Youth Girl Power Session. **PRETTY** (Pure Righteous Elegant Talented Tenacious Youth) Girl Rock, is a Girl Power Session that was held at the Murphy L. Hunt Life Development Center on the Morning Star Baptist Church campus in Mooretown. It was sponsored by **CLASSY Ladies Women's Ministry International** and Company.

The session was for girls ages 3-19. It included a charm clinic for the toddler-pre-teen girls. **Felicia Williams Scott** of My Spa My and **Deb Brittany** of the Pregnancy Crisis Center were present. **PPO LaNita Lars**, who is also a trainer at Camp Gladiator, spoke to the girls about fitness and health as well as bullying.

LaTonya said that they wanted to do something positive and life changing for the girls in the community, as there has been a lot of delinquent behavior highlighted in the news lately.



PRETTY Girl Rock!



PPO LaTonya Marshall

*PPO LaNita Lars*

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Congratulations

Employee of the Month



PPO Douglas Black was selected September Employee of the Month. Douglas proved himself to be a team player by volunteering to take on extra duties at Bridge City. He also maintained a positive

attitude while executing these duties. Douglas supervised a group of youth at BCCY as they landscaped the facility grounds. Douglas not only supervised the youths while they worked, he worked along with them, pulling weeds and raking leaves. More important than assisting them with the landscaping, Douglas used his time with the youth to give them encouraging words.

YEP Hosts Events

Back to School Splash

The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) hosted a Back to School Splash at Crystal Magnolia Country Club. This event was a huge success and a lot of fun. The youth

enjoyed swimming, playing games and having a dance contest. 35 youth participated in this event. Youth from our summer camp, reintegration program and afterschool program attended the Back to School Splash. Each youth were given a backpack full of school supplies.

*Back to School Splash*

OCH Market

YEP participated in the recent Oretha Castle Haley Art and Wellness Market. YEP provided a kids' wellness market in the backyard of Saturn Printing, where the kids learned how to make their own trail mix, learned how to exercise, and the importance of eating healthier foods. In addition, the kids had their face painted, played a football game, were taught yoga and how to hula hoop. The market is held on the second Saturday of each month.

Atlanta Trip

To wrap up our summer, our Community Reintegration and Community Based Mentoring Program teams went to Atlanta, Georgia with nine youth. The trip was fun and educational. While in Atlanta, the youth went to Six Flags Water Park and the Civil Rights Museum.

*Youth in Atlanta*

Parent Orientation

YEP held its parent orientation for all programs in September. Each parent who attended received information on all our programs and the services that we provide to all our youth.

Bless You Boys!

YEP sponsored a mentoring activity for the pre-season Saints vs. Tennessee Titans game. A good time was had by all. YEP, along with one of their partners, sponsored several youth tickets to the game and treated them to dinner as well. Unfortunately the Saints lost but we still had a good time. We were joined by two former OJJ youth and community based mentoring youth, and it was quite a reunion.



Natchitoches Regional Office

Congratulations

Employee of the Month



PPO3 Joseph Black

Brenda Sarpy's daughter, Megan Jane Sarpy, who is 9 years old, entered the 2011 Natchitoches Meatpie Sweetheart Princess Pageant. She won Most Beautiful and Most Photogenic and came in as first runner-up in the queen division.



Community Involvement



Above and below: PPO Joseph Black and Stanley Cook visited Many Elementary School in September.



Special Thanks

Staff wants to say a "Special Thank You" to **PPS Simon Sarpy** who provided breakfast for all staff on Friday, September 30.

Monroe Regional Office

Training Sessions Conducted

POST Firearms Instructor Jennifer Bible conducted annual POST re-qualifications at the Richland Parish Range in September. Officers shot qualifying scores and got in some good practice. **PPO3 Patrick Cooper** shot a perfect 120. Congratulations Patrick!

PPS Karl Wallace conducted the annual supervisor training in September. **RM Patty Newman** and all Monroe supervisors attended the training.

PPS Linda Williams, PPO3 Hannah Dozier and **PPO3 Cheryl Pringle** conducted SAVRY booster training.

Thanks for Going Above and Beyond

RM Patty Newman

hosted a breakfast for her staff who participated in the recent detail at Bridge City. The PPOs and supervisors were treated to eggs, sausage, biscuits, and sweets. Monroe OJJ is always ready to assist, and Patty wanted to honor her hardworking officers. Pictured: Patty cooking breakfast for her "troops."



PPO3 Gary Hunter joined with the other deacons from his church, St. James Missionary Baptist Church, in making needed repairs to the home of an elderly member of their congregation. Joining Gary in this act of community service was **PPS Orlando Davis**. Gary would like to recognize Orlando for his voluntary participation, and is thankful to have a supervisor who gave his time and skills to serve for a greater cause. We are proud of Gary and Orlando.

Lake Charles Regional Office

Stepping Up and Stepping In

100% of Lake Charles' probation officers, program specialists and probation supervisors ALL volunteered to work shifts at Bridge City when needed. Our Tier 1 team stepped up with very little advance notice to work the Labor Day weekend, and they all demonstrated great attitudes and professionalism regarding fulfilling the need of our agency in an emergency situation. Our team recognized the need to pull together for brief interims to accomplish a task. The GREATEST number of shifts worked by a male PPO and female PPO were: **PPO3 Stefanie Krygowski** worked 5 shifts. **PPO3 Fred Fontenot** worked 7 shifts. Thank you to all our male officers who worked many, many shifts.

Community Outreach

PPS Melissa Cross and **PPO3s Delisa Clark** and **Monet Newman** represented OJJ and spoke to potential college interns at the McNeese State University's Fall Career Fair. We educated the public on our mission and what we do.

PPO3 Stefanie Krygowski attended a football game for Deridder Middle School and observed one of her juveniles perform in the school band. Stefanie showed her support!

PPO3s Fred Fontenot and **Ronald Gilchrist** initiated positive interactions with some OJJ youth detained in the Calcasieu Parish Juvenile Detention Center. They engaged in a game of dominos and game of basketball. As always, the juveniles were extremely receptive to the PPOs interacting with them in a non-traditional caseload contacts manner. **Fred and Ronald modeled the way and inspired a shared vision** by inviting other Lake Charles OJJ probation officers to accompany them. We have had great results when we show interest in our kids outside of mandatory rules of probation.



Thank you to
PPO3s Monet Newman and
Alexis Heflin for
teaching J.A.R.S.
(Juveniles
Accepting
Responsibility for
Shoplifting) in
Beauregard Parish

during a Fair Day, so the youth did not have to miss school to attend. Pictured is Monet Newman at the podium.

PPS Ken Vidrine recently spoke with a young man (almost 30 years old) who happened to be an inmate washing state vehicles. Ken had a great motivational conversation with this young adult about bettering oneself and one's life, even if one's upbringing was not under the most ideal circumstances. Ken felt that they were communicating and that the young man was uplifted as a result of their conversation.

PPO2 Garrick Chambers and **PPO3 Rebecca Harmon** provided assistance to a young woman who ran out of gas in the OJJ parking lot. They helped her push her car, at 7:15 in the morning. She was late for school and looking for assistance.

PPO3 Rebecca Harmon has received many emails of kudos and thanks for her hard work in the Jefferson Davis Parish area, due to her reassignment to a new parish in need. Local officials and professionals in Jeff Davis Parish joked that they were not happy with decision-makers, and they were sad to see Rebecca reassigned. Rebecca received many calls from families describing the attachments they have developed for Rebecca. And, Rebecca was touched by **Youth Gaige W.**, who had recently expressed how much he hated her and desired to harm her. He actually cried when he learned that she would no longer be his PPO.

RM Ann Vick held a Stay-in Day meeting on the last day of September. The staff

brainstormed on how we can get the community involved to positively impact our kids. **PPO3 Delisa Clark** volunteered to conduct a juvenile survey to determine interests of juveniles: gardening, sports, hair, construction, etc., and to determine which organizations we can approach to fill the needs and interests of our youth, such as Rotary Club, Masons, sororities and fraternities, local sports teams and professional athletes.

Youth Successes

PPO3 Rebecca Harmon recommended release from supervision for a true OJJ success story: **Shallie M.** Shallie began her supervision with OJJ as a defiant, rebellious, drug-addicted, pregnant 14-year old whose siblings had been removed from the home by DCFS. However, after two years of intense supervision and guidance from Rebecca, Shallie is now 16, drug-free, law-abiding, and a good mother to a healthy and beautiful baby girl. And, she has expressed gratitude for all the not-so-easy interventions implemented by Rebecca. She knows her results would not have been as favorable without OJJ's interventions. **GOOD JOB, Rebecca!**

Two kids who were continually tested positive for illegal drugs recently volunteered to enter the Youth Challenge Program, and this voluntary placement has been successful. Both remain in the program and they are now drug-free.

OJJ Kids Educational Achievements

PPO3 Fred Fontenot recently announced that **Jacoby M.** earned his GED while in Swanson Center for Youth. Congratulations to Jacoby!

PPO3 Angela Stevens worked closely with youth **Justin R.**, and this young man has been extremely successful in YCP. He scored 12.9 on his pre-GED test and we anticipate a success for him in the near future.

PPO3 Delisa Clark is supervising an offender serving juvenile life at Bridge City. This young man is presently engaged in Culinary Arts as a trade and certification, and he is also pursuing LSU college correspondence courses. He has displayed consistent, commendable behavior and is earning furlough recommendations each month.

Congratulations to probationers **Divonte B.** and **Raheem G.** of **PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist's** and **PPO3 Monet Newman's** caseload respectively, who both graduated from the voluntary, residential YCP Program in September.

Skyler B. a probationer supervised by **PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist**, recently graduated from the ADAC outpatient substance abuse program. This is a major achievement for him.

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

RM Susan Miller said, "I want to highlight some of the good work that my staff has done in the last month. They have really been living the agency mission and I want to commend them on going above and beyond."

Modeling the Way

PPO Jeffry Edwards completed the hurricane preparedness training through the Louisiana National Guard in September. The training is held in the event that the National Guard has to assist the state of Louisiana with hurricane evacuations.

PPO3 Deacon Jones arranged for a youth to get free monthly haircuts at a barber shop near his home. In exchange for the haircuts, the youth completes chores around the barber shop. Excellent work, Deacon.

In September, **PPO3 Chase Cappel**, **RM Susan Miller**, **Social Worker Claude**

Devillier and **Family Liaison Donna Bowie**, coordinated the Parent Empowerment Network meeting at Lafayette OJJ, pictured below. Thirteen parents attended. This was the second meeting held at the Lafayette office. The meetings are held on Saturdays - not everything can be completed in five days! The steering committee, comprised of parents, is about to begin training.



In September **PPO Rhonda Gallet**, who works closely with a domestic violence organization, spoke at a domestic violence awareness seminar.

Inspiring a Share Vision

PPO3 Beth Broussard participated in Drug Court training which was focused on options other than revoking when juveniles are not working the program.

Encourage the Heart

PPO3 Deacon Jones supervises youth **Braniesha N.**, who was chosen to participate in the GLEE choir at Westgate High School. Being a member of the choir requires a fee of \$800 to cover the cost of travel to and from competitions and shows. Deacon is working with organizations in the community to get donations to cover the cost of the fee.

PPO3 Kristi Eames previously supervised a client, **Jaden B.**, who was chosen to play in the ICE Jets National Hockey League in Dallas, Texas. The youth tried out for the team and was accepted. Only eight members were selected for the team. The youth will attend the ISchool through the league. The

case was staffed for release due to the youth's acceptance. The release was approved and the judge signed a release order, allowing the client to move to Dallas to participate on the team.

PPO3 Mina Travis is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Through the organization, Mina prepared care packages for soldiers in Afghanistan. They prepared enough packages for five units, each of which supports 150 soldiers. Mina donated a 9/11 flag to the City of Greensburg, LA, and she rang bells at the First Southern Methodist Church in Amite, LA for Constitution week.

Last school year one of our youth, **Gabriel W.**, was constantly in trouble at school and had poor grades. He was referred to the Trackers program by **PPO3 Chase Cappel**. During the summer, Chase encouraged Gabriel to participate on the school football team, but he did not have transportation to practice. The tracker provided transportation for the youth to attend practice every day during the summer. He is now on the school football team, has not been in any trouble this school year, and his grades are As and Bs with only one C.



Taking tea on Whidbey Island, Washington state

Jetson Center for Youth

JCY Youth Come Together to Save Their Juvenile Justice Specialist

By Director Daron Brown

There is a quote from Henry Ford which says *"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."* Recently at JCY, this quote was epitomized by the youth housed at our facility.

The youth, **Curtis B., DeAngelo P., Steven C., Christopher G., Jamar H., Dylan Y., Randel L. and Jaquan J.**, all played an important role in this incident. One Thursday evening, one of our staff, **JJS Joseph Williams**, was working in Sunshine A dorm when he began feeling ill. He expressed to the youth that he was not feeling well and during the conversation with the youth he lost consciousness.

The youth in the dorm immediately sprang into action - "coming together." They quickly activated the beeper and got assistance for JJS Williams - "keeping together." They placed cool towels on his face and stayed with him until help arrived - "working together."

These youth, our youth, saved JJS Williams' life. They pulled together as a team and did what needed to be done to make certain that he was okay. They were able to push their differences aside and work together as a team to take care of JJS Williams. These youth stayed cool in an extreme emergency and JJS Williams is now at home doing well, as reported by his mother.

We could all take a lesson from these youth. The lesson is that we must learn to put our differences aside in order to get things done. We must realize that only as team can we accomplish the goals that we have set. I applaud these youth for their heroic efforts.

The staff here at JCY is so very proud of them. The mother of JJS Williams came to the facility to express her deepest gratitude to

these youth, saying, "I believe that you young men saved my son's life." We think so too! Thanks to the staff and youth at JCY for all that you do! You're all awesome!

JCY Youth Reap Rewards for Their Deeds

By Director Daron Brown

Reaping rewards ... we had an experience at JCY about the rewards of life. I quote English writer John Ruskin when he stated, *"The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it."* This quote rang true for the youth in our facility. They not only reaped rewards by being given an opportunity to go on a field trip, they also have reaped the reward of becoming better young men by changing their attitudes, stepping up and taking charge, and showing their growth and maturity.

The youth were able to reap what they sowed. The youth in Sunshine A dorm came to the rescue of one of our staff and quite literally saved his life. So, as a reward for them coming together and working as a team, they went to Cinemark Theatre to see the movie *Dolphin Tales*. After the movie they headed to Central Office where they met with Dr. Mary Livers and the rest of the Executive Team. It was quite an experience for the youth. We topped it off with lunch at King's Buffet. The youth were escorted by JCY staff **Martha Barnes, Denise Clause, Richard Carroll, Janelle Green, Jewel Veal** and **myself**. It was a fun time for all!

We are very proud of all of our youth who earned the reward. Although they are housed within our facility due to some sort of negative behavior or action, they have shown JCY staff and themselves that they can change their behavior - do the right thing. It is because of this change in behavior that they earned their rewards. It is not a small thing to earn a trip off-campus. These youth have done what has been asked of them and because of that, it is our duty to show them that just as

they have to accept responsibility and the repercussions of their negative actions; they also will receive the rewards of their positive behavior and hard work. Good begets good. I commend the youth and the staff on a job well done!

I know it's not always easy but in the end, our guys always come out shining. Thanks for all that you do!

Youth Field Trip was a Huge Success

By Denise Clause, Life Skills Instructor

On October 3 several youth were rewarded with a field trip for their positive actions, that may have saved the life of their officer, who became gravely ill while he was in the Sunshine A dorm.



Youth and staff on the field trip.

The youth were very excited and curious as to where our adventure would take us, as we left the Jetson campus that morning. As we were traveling **youth Jamar H.** pointed out to me the various traffic signs that we had just reviewed that morning! We have been studying traffic violations and other related information in Life Skills class that will help the youth pass their drivers test once they are back into the community. What a great opportunity to transfer learning from the classroom to a real life situation, unplanned and unforeseen!

Our first stop was Perkins Rowe Cinema. We saw the movie, *Dolphin Tale*, which is based on a true story of a dolphin with a disability, who is currently living in a marine facility in Clearwater, Florida. The dolphin's name is Winter and additional information can be found at www.seewinter.com. Both youth and adults enjoyed the inspiring and uplifting movie about perseverance and team work.

After the movie the youth moved to the courtyard to view the beautiful water fountain and to pose for pictures. There, they met a man who was there with his two dogs in a "real dog stroller." The gentleman showed the youth the dogs and explained that one had been totally blind for eight years. He gave us a demonstration of how the dogs interacted and cared for each other. What a coincidence after just seeing a movie about another animal with a disability. What a teachable moment and a valuable lesson!

The youth were then treated to a special outing to central office where they received accolades on their recent heroic act of being first responders during the crisis in their dorm. **Youth Steven C.** recited the OJJ Mission as well as gave the leadership team an overview of what happened in the dorm. The youth were quite impressed with their visit to central office and with meeting Dr. Livers.

After all of that, everyone had worked up an appetite, so we headed over to King Buffet for a delightful lunch buffet. All of the youth were challenged to "try" one new food they had never tasted. After a little coaxing, the youth had fun experimenting with mussels, imitation lobster, spring rolls, rice cookies, etc. Several of the youth learned how to use chop sticks from our helpful waitress.

After lunch we circled up and Director Brown reminded the youth the importance of "doing the right thing - and the importance of trying to change lives for the better."



Youth are pictured with Director Daron Brown and Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers.

Everyone enjoyed their day and were especially grateful to Director Brown for being able to "walk away from all of the work on his desk" to be able to do what he enjoys best—spending quality time with youth and staff."

And now, from the youth:

Sunshine Field Trip

By Youth Jamar H.

WOW!! I have to admit that yesterday's trip was awesome. First, we went out to the movies to see a movie called *Dolphin Tales*. My favorite part of the movie was watching the family pull together and help the dolphin survive and not give up on him. We had popcorn, soda, candy and nachos. Our group shared our concessions with each other. The movie was also 3-D, that made it even better. Afterwards we went to OJJ Central Office, and got congratulated again about the accident that took place in our dorm.

"The reward is that the thanks they were giving us felt great, and makes me want to continue to do the right thing."

As we were talking to the OJJ people, I noticed how proud they were of us that we did the right thing. The reward is that the thanks they were giving us felt great, and

makes me want to continue to do the right thing.

They told us that our parole officers and our judges would hear about it, they would make sure of it.

Lastly, we went out to eat. The food was great and we all tried foods that we've never tasted before. It was pretty funny to see the faces our group was making at the foods they disliked. It was Ms. Clause's idea. We learned how to use chopsticks, although I never got the hang of it. This trip was awesome!

My Trip with the Dorm

By Youth Steven C.

Today I went on a very special trip with my dorm. This all started from a very brave and courageous thing me and my fellow peers did. On September 29, 2011, **Juvenile Justice Specialist Mr. Joseph Williams** passed out in the dorm. It was an experience I will never forget because I and the rest of the dorm really saved his life.

All of my peers showed that we could all put our tensions aside and work as a group to get something accomplished. The mother of Mr. Williams came to the facility to personally thank us for saving her son.

Director Brown treated us for our success. Today we went on a trip to watch a movie called Dolphin Tales. The movie was really good and it was a 3-D, so how cool was that? We had nachos, candy and drinks, man it was awesome! That's not all we did today. We took all sorts of pictures and went to a Chinese buffet where I learned how to use chop sticks. I also tried food I would never imagine trying in my life. I tried rice candy, spring rolls, also mussel in its own shell. The trip was really fun and I really enjoyed my day. Like they say, "when you do good you receive good."

Youth Enroll at Louisiana Technical College

Scenic Alternative High School's goal of paving the way, for a brighter future for their students started in January 2010. In order to prepare for life experiences, beyond the GED, came the concept of students attending college. The school selected was Louisiana Technical College in Baton Rouge. Now, the name has changed to Capital Area Technical College. LTC is a public technical college system with 40 campuses across Louisiana that provide hands-on skills training.

The first class of five students, officer escorted, enrolled in the Graphics Program. In order to qualify for this program, students had to demonstrate basic computer skills. Upon successful completion of the course, students were able to apply technical knowledge and skills to:

- printing and lithographic equipment and operations,
- digital imaging,
- print preparation,
- page layout and design,
- desktop publishing, and
- introduction to entrepreneurial skills.

The fall semester of 2011 is the beginning of a class in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration. After the completion of this 21 month program, students will be prepared for employment in a variety of jobs in the field of heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration. Students will be able to work on domestic, residential, and commercial systems utilizing the following skills: installing, diagnosing, repairing and maintaining the systems.

We hope that the students who are given this opportunity will take their learned skills to the next level. The next level meaning being skillfully trained, gainfully employed, productive, law-abiding citizens.

GREATNESS NOW! Scenic Alternative High School

Staff of Greatness Now presented an interesting motivational training activity to the faculty. The activity was interactive, enjoyable, and informative. The activity was related to "wealth distribution." The faculty was very complimentary of the staff.

The student body was brought together in an assembly for **Mr. James Green** to speak to them. The students could relate to Mr. Green because of his age. He was of 'their' generation. After the motivational speech, he went to each dorm to speak to the youth. He gave the youth his address and phone number so they can contact him. The youth responded to him very well. This was an overall great experience for faculty and youth.

Changing Our Stripes, Positive Behavior Scenic Alternative High School

On October 4 the students and staff were inspired by the keynote speaker "**Silky Slim**" - **Mr. Arthur Reed**. After the welcome, prayer, and pledge of allegiance, the speaker was introduced. He delivered a message that was heartfelt and positive.

Mr. Reed spoke to the youth from the viewpoint that "I've been exactly where you are." In fact, he was a student at Louisiana Training Institute in the early days. After his juvenile time, he continued a life of crime which ended up with a lengthy stay at Angola. He told the youth that he could not read or do math even into his adulthood. He only learned to read after many years, because he was unable to read his letters from home.

He showed slides of when he was young until his early days 'hanging out on the streets'. He has been out of Angola since 1996. It was then he decided to change his life and with God's help, that is exactly what happened.

Mr. Reed has written three books, made two movies, and is currently working on a

documentary entitled, **American Youth Behind Bars**. He stated that gang banging was and is not beneficial for anybody. All the money and possessions are not worth doing wrong because you are still not happy with life; always looking behind your back at all times. Families get hurt and sometimes killed.

Students were very attentive to the message – changing your mind changes your heart. Mr. Reed is attempting to change one youth at a time with his speaking engagements. Perhaps that is what happened when he spoke at Jetson.



Above: Donna Bowie, Arthur Reed, aka Silky Slim, Principal Ronnie Knox and Teacher Kim Ringgold.



Hammond Regional Office

SUPERSTAR!

Administrative Coordinator 2 Janice Lewis is the Hammond OJJ Superstar for September. She was recognized by **Administrative Coordinator 4 Courtney Pegues** for her adjustment to processing payroll since the implementation of online leave and attendance requests.

Staff Highlight



September Staff Highlight: PPO3 Theresa Andries

By SSC4 Lori Wagner

This month we chose **PPO3 Theresa Andries** for our employee spotlight. Theresa is a resident of Pine, Louisiana; however she was born and raised in nearby Covington. She was home schooled all her life and graduated at the age of 16 in 2000. She began her higher education at Delgado College in 2001, and transferred to Southeastern Louisiana University in 2002. She earned her Bachelor's in Applied Behavioral Science in 2005 and immediately went to work at a local detention facility. Theresa always knew she wanted to work with adolescents. In September 2007, she became a member of the OJJ team. Theresa is currently the Bogalusa City Court liaison. She is also assigned the backup position for teleconferencing at Hammond OJJ.

Theresa bought her first home in December of 2010 and took custody of her 15 year old cousin, Richard, whom she is now raising, immediately after purchasing her home. Theresa wants to make a difference in his life and in the lives of the youth she supervises.

Theresa's other passions include being a devoted member of Annunciation Catholic Church in Abita Springs. She enjoys traveling, and has visited Canada, Mexico and New York City and traveled all over the east coast. She de-stresses and relaxes by boating, fishing, crabbing and riding ATVs.

We are truly thankful to have her on our team here in Hammond and for the service she provides to all the youth in her caseload. She also has a couple of nicknames in the office including "Skeeter" and "T."

Thanks "T" for all you do to meet the mission!

Training Attended

PPS Carrie Austin became a certified Chemical Weapons Instructor.

PPO2 Jennifer Sirchia attended training in Lafayette for Drug Court on alternative strategies to avoid revocations.

Adm. Coordinator 4 Courtney Pegues attended AGPS Navigation training in Baton Rouge.

In September, staff completed training on Youth Drug/Alcohol Testing, Staff/Youth Relationships, Cultural Diversity, Interstate Compact, revised policies, Probation and Parole Supervision.



*Fall color,
Victoria,
British
Columbia,
Canada*

Bridge City Center for Youth

Culinary Arts Students Prepare Special Breakfast



Special servers for the breakfast included (left to right) Dr. Roy L. Higgins, Ms. Cassandra Washington, Ms. Terri Delille, Deputy Director Namon Reid, Director Joseph Powe, Asst. Director Ricky Wright and Ms. Nerissa Cole.

By Chef Ron Sonnier

With the changing of the seasons and fall upon us, it's time to start thinking about pumpkins, turkeys and all the great treats we enjoy serving to our family and friends during the holidays coming up.

The students had the opportunity to prepare an Appreciation Breakfast for all the employees of Bridge City recently and the challenge was met with enthusiasm from the team of young Culinarians to really make it special.

Homemade biscuits, scrambled eggs, smoked sausage, crispy bacon, grits and sliced melon were presented to the employees as they entered the campus or were leaving off their shift.

The buffet was set up in the Culinary Arts Class. The students also decorated the room in a fall setting.

JJS Christy Inducted into Hall of Fame



JJS3 Robert A. Christy, Jr. recently received a Golden Lifetime Achievement Award from the Masters

Hall of Fame. The Masters Hall of Fame recognizes excellence in martial arts, and inducted over 50 of the world's greatest martial artists at its awards program in Anaheim, California.

Grand Master Robert A. Christy, Jr., is a 10th Degree Black Belt and founder of the Zenshin Ki-Do Martial Arts System. He also holds a 9th Degree Black Belt in Ju Bushi Do karate and a 5th Degree Black Belt in Kuro Bushi Kai Karate Do Kempo.

With over 44 years of training in the martial arts, Mr. Christy is well respected by his peers in the field as a champion fighter and great teacher. He was inducted into the Louisiana Karate Hall of Fame in 1990 and was honored in 1993 with the Louisiana Karate Legend Award for his accomplishments in the martial arts.

Mr. Christy is a native of New Orleans and a resident of Baton Rouge. He is a graduate of St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, Southern University in Baton Rouge and the University of the State of New York.

Faith-Based Team Mentoring Classes Held

Team mentoring training was held recently at the Sixth Baptist Church by **Pastor Torin Sanders**, volunteer Chaplain for BCCY and Pastor of Sixth Baptist Church. Those who attended were **Pastor Sanders**, **BCCY Director Joseph Powe**; **Sharonda Smith**, **BCCY**; **Baton Rouge Regional Manager Michelle Thomas**; **Jennifer Anderson**, **BR Social Worker**; **BR PPO Steven Dukes**;

mentor Vicky Brister; mentor Pamela Johnson; OJJ Family Liaison Donna Bowie, Mr. Byron Turner, Mrs. Thena Robinson-Mock and Mr. Alvin Anderson.



Pictured are three members of Team 1 from the Sixth Baptist Church's Faith-Based Team Mentoring Initiative, Mr. Byron Turner, Mrs. Thena Robinson-Mock and Mr. Alvin Anderson.



The October Birth Flower is the Calendula or Marigold. The Calendula signifies sympathy. Submitted by BCCY Adm. Program Coordinator Eddie Newsome.



Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Baton Rouge Regional Office

September began with a special thank you breakfast for the PPOs in the Baton Rouge office. **RM Michelle Thomas** and the office supervisors gathered to show appreciation for all PPOs who gave their time and worked to assist the BCCY staff in their time of need. We later celebrated the start of the NFL season with a barbecue tailgate party hosted by RM Thomas and the office supervisors. Special thanks to our "chef for the day" **PPS Rickey Cannon** for gracing our table with his barbecue expertise. The food was great!

Congratulations

Employee of the Month

Congratulations to **PPO Patsy Adams** for being recognized by her peers as an exceptional part of the OJJ team. Patsy was nominated by her coworkers because of her hard work, dedication, and selflessness.

Patsy feels that each youth has a unique quality and strength and must be encouraged to work up to their potential. She said that with the appropriate guidance, motivation and encouragement, all youth are capable of making a remarkable difference in society. She has an open door policy to all the youth in her caseload, no matter if they are a new or closed case, she welcomes them in, checks on their progress and continues to motivate them. PPO Patsy Adams, congratulations on your accomplishment!

Congratulations to **PPO3 Roy A. McBride, Sr.'s son, Roy A. McBride, Jr.**, who graduated from Alsiek High School in Houston, Texas, over the summer. He is currently attending Blinn Community College in Bryan, Texas, where he is studying music. We are very proud of you - keep up the excellent work!

We Welcome a New Member of the Family



A very special congratulations goes out to **PPO Keelen Robinson and his wife Brittany** on the birth of their beautiful baby boy **Kameron L. Robinson**, pictured above. Kameron was born September 29, weighing a healthy 6 lbs, 13.5 oz.! Congratulations to the Robinson family on the precious new addition!

Welcome Back

We are all so very glad to have back in our office **PPO Katina Broden** and **PPO Shantia Roy**. Both officers were out due to surgery. We are glad they are back in the building and doing well! We missed you all!



Above, blue marguerites, right, Butchart Gardens, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Alexandria Regional Office

Alexandria OJJ has been doing lots of fishing.

PPO 3 Donna Desoto took part in a fundraiser for breast cancer awareness in Grand Isle. Donna, along with 14 other women, fished and crabbed for the day. The name of Donna's team was "Girls Rule Fishing School." Donna was honest and did not have any "big fishing stories" as she did not catch any, which she blamed on the wind. Oh, by the way, it only took 6 hours to travel from Baton Rouge to Grand Isle even using her Tom Tom.

PPO3 Trinity Adams, PPO3 Heath Wallace and **PPS John Baker**, took some time away from their daily routine to do a little fishing. Staff can't wait to fry up what they caught. Another fishing trip to Lafitte took place, with the fishermen being **PPS John Baker, RM Johnny Qualls** and **PPS Clay Dupuy**. The redfish caught will help at our next fish fry.

OJJ Anniversaries

PPS John Baker has 22 years of service as of October 30.

AC4 Sharon Graham celebrates 22 years with OJJ, but she has a total of 28 years of state service.





Recipe of the Month

BCCV Culinary Arts & Occupations

Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC

This recipe was submitted by one of the students as one of his favorite pies that his grandmother always made for him. We have made it several times in class and it doesn't last very long.

J P's Peanut Butter Pie



1 cup peanut butter
1 8 oz package cream cheese
1 cup sugar
2 tbsp butter, melted

1 cup whipped cream
1 tsp vanilla extract
hot fudge sauce
19 inch graham cracker crust

In a bowl, cream together peanut butter, cream cheese, sugar and butter. Add whipped cream and vanilla. Blend well. Pour into crust. Chill in refrigerator overnight. Top with thin layer of hot fudge sauce.



Spicy White Chicken Chili

Serves 6-8

2 - 15 oz cans Great Northern beans, undrained
1 - 16 oz jar salsa
2 - 4 oz. cans green chilies, chopped
4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves, cut into bite-size pieces
1 cup chicken broth

2 tbsp ground cumin
2 tsp chili powder
1 - 8 oz. pkg. shredded Monterey Jack cheese*
1 - 8 oz. pkg. shredded Colby Cheddar cheese*
Salt and pepper to taste

Put beans, salsa, chilies, chicken breast pieces, chicken broth, cumin and chili powder into slow cooker and cook on low for 7 hours. Add in cheeses and cook for an additional hour. Stir and serve. This soup is a great crock pot recipe for those on the go and it freezes well if you decide to double the recipe for another day. *When cooking with cheese, always remember to heat slowly so as not to make the cheese break. Also, cheese that you grate or shred yourself will melt much better than packaged shredded cheese.

Bon appétit - Chef Ron Sonnier

TRICK OR TREAT SAFETY

PARENTS

- * Make sure your child eats a good dinner before going out Trick-or-Treating. They need proper energy tonight...!!!
- * If you buy a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant material.
- * Make sure you work into your child's OR adult Halloween costume, reflector strips, a FLASHING safety light or the very popular GLOW LIGHT STICKS to make everyone more visible and much safer at night. SAFETY FIRST tonight of all nights...!
- * Ideally, young children of any age should be accompanied by an adult.
- * DO NOT, repeat, DO NOT allow your children to wear and use rollerblades to go out trick-or-treating.
- * Avoid streets under construction. There are holes and pits. Use common sense.
- * Older children should know where to reach you, when to be home and go out in groups. Make sure they have a full charged cell phone with them.
- * You should know WHERE they're going and with WHO they are going with.
- * Although product tampering is rare, tell the children to bring ALL the candy home to be inspected BEFORE consuming anything.
- * Look at the wrapping carefully and toss out anything that looks like tampering.
- * If you child has an ALLERGY, VERY IMPORTANT to look at the ingredients of the treats they bring home.
- * Limit the amount of treats they consume on Halloween to avoid any sickness.



HOMEOWNERS

- * Make sure your yard is clear of such things as ladders, garden hoses, dog leashes and low flower pots. These objects can trip the young trick-or-treater.
- * Be sure the path and stairs to your front door are well illuminated and clear of obstacles. Double check ALL the outside lights...!!!
- * Pets get frightened on Halloween. Put them in a kennel tonight, to protect them from cars or inadvertently biting a trick-or-treater. OUCH...!!!
- * GLOW LIGHT STICKS or battery powered jack-o-lantern light are preferable to real flame candles.
- * If you do use candles, place the carved jack-o-lantern well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing.
- * Make sure that paper or cloth decorations won't be blown into a flaming candle.
- * NEVER leave any flaming candle unattended.
- * BE PREPARED. Have a FULLY CHARGED fire extinguisher handy, just in case...! BE PREPARED.
- * Pass out healthy food alternatives for visiting trick-or-treaters. Include packages of low-fat crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling, single-serve boxes of cereal, packaged fruit rolls, mini boxes of raisins and single-serve packets of low-fat popcorn that can be microwaved later.
- * Non-food treats: PEZ® candy dispensers, small note pads, pencils, pens, stickers, erasers.

Source:

www.YankeeHalloween.com

COURTESY OF WELLNESS PROPOSALS

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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